Racket in cornering of Non-Ferrous metals unearthed by Central Economic Intelligence Bureau

490. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the month of June last the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau has unearthed a major racket engaged in cornering of non-ferrous metals meant for actual users and selling the same in the black market;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the involved officials of MMTC and the firms involved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCNE (SHRl ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau searched in December, 1989 the business and residential premises of three persons allegedly involved in the sale of non-ferrous metals, obtained from M.M.T.C. under the guise of actual users. Investigations revealed that a number of fictitious firms were set up by these persons and the purchase of non-ferrous metals was financed through bank credit. The metals were sold at a premium in the open market. The cases so far detected involve lifting of non-ferrous metals to the tune of Rs. 8.5 crores in 1988-89 from M.M.T.C. Three persons have been arrested under the Customs Act, 1962.

(c) Investigations at this stage do not indicate the involvement of the officials of M.M.T.C. Action will be taken against the persons concerned for misusing the facility available to actual users under the Import and Export Control Policy.

एयर कम्प्रेशरों का आयात

491. **श्री शिवप्रसाद चनपुरिया:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने जापानी कंपनी मैसर्स कामात्सु कंपनी, टोकियो से एयर कम्प्रेशरों के आयात की अनुमति दे दी है;

(ख) एयर कम्प्रेशरों के आयात के लिए जिन-जिन भारतीय कंपनियों को अनुमति प्रदान की गई है, उनके नाम क्या हैं; और

(ग) 31 मार्च, 1990 के अंत तक इन कंम्पनियों द्वारा आयातित एयर कम्प्रेशरों की कुल संख्या कितनी है तथा उन पर कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च की गई?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरंगिल श्रीधरन): (क) से (ग) "सभी प्रकार के कम्प्रेशर" मद सीमित अनुज्ञेय सूची में है। अतः इसका आयात पूरक लाइसेंसों, सी०जी० लाइसेंसों एवं आर. ई. पी/अतिरिक्त लाइसेंसों के आधार पर किया जा सकता है। ऐसे लाइसेंसों में सप्लायर कम्पनियों के नामों का विशेष रूप से उल्लेख नहीं किया जाता है। इसके अतिरिक्त आर ई पी तथा अतिरिक्त लाइसेंसों के मामले में आयातकों के नामों का भी पता नहीं चल सकता है। क्योंकि ये मुक्त रूप से परिवर्तनीय होते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त मदवार आयातों के आंकड़े भी नहीं रखे जाते हैं।

Level of Gross Domestic Product, Money Supply, Currency in Circulation, Deficit Financing and Inflation

492. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been level of Gross Domestic product, money supply, currency in circulation, deficit financing and rate of inflation during the last five years;

(b) whether any research has been conducted to establish a definite co-relation between the above; and

(c) if so, what are the lessons that can be drawn for framing future monetary and fiscal policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) A table is enclosed giving figures of GDP, money supply, currency with public, rate of inflation [as measured by rise in wholesale price index (1981-82=100) of the five years] i.e. 1985-86 to 1989-90. [See Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 13.]

(b) and (c) The Committee to Review the working of the monetary system (Chairman Prof. S. Chakravarty) which examined various studies in this area, observed that "the precise interrelationships between money output and prices have, despite years of research, remained an area of controversy". However, it also felt that the rate of growth in money supply should be in conformity with the desired rate of growth in output and constrain the price increase to an acceptable level. It also suggested setting of indicative monetary targets to bring about a better co-ordination between monetary and fiscal policies.

New Steel Policy

493. SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently declared new steel policy which is aimed at boosting production of steel in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any effective steps for increasing the production of raw material, such as sponge iron, etc., which are used in the production of steel; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by Government to make available raw materials to the steel producing units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have delicensed the sponge iron industry to encourage establishment of projects for the production of sponge iron. A number of sponge iron units are already in production and the sponge iron manufactured by the units is utilised by the steel producing units. Shortage of raw materials is met through import of scrap. Gas and coal linkages have also been provided for several new sponge iron projects. Establishment of these projects will further increase the availability of sponge iron.

Debt Relief Scheme for Fanners

494. DR. BAPU KALDATE: SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY: SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: SHRI JAGESH DESAI: SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: SHRI N. E. BALARAM: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what, accoding to the assessment, if any, made by Government is the estimated number of farmers who are likely to be benefitted by the debt relief scheme, State-wise;

(b) what is the estimated amount likely to be written off with the implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether any formula has been worked out by Government with regard to the Central and State Governments' share in giving the debt relief, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the total amount of relief, if any, given by Government so far, State-wise and what is the share of the